

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 17 and 23-28 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 13, 16, 18, and 21 and add Claim 34 as follows.

Claims 1.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a medium, comprising:

processing means for performing a predetermined process ~~of~~ on input image information; and

means for superposing predetermined additional information ~~to~~ on the image information processing by said processing means,

wherein when ~~said the~~ the image forming means forms an image in accordance with the image information ~~superposed on which~~ with the additional information is superposed by said superposing means, said superposing means superposes the additional information so as to make it difficult for the human eye to identify ~~said the~~ the additional information, and

wherein the additional information is represented by a relative positional relationship between a dot position of a line formed by equidistantly arranging dots in a first direction and a dot position of an adjacent line formed by equidistantly arranging dots in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the additional information comprises a predetermined pattern having a mark representing a position where the additional information is added to the image information.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the additional information is at least one of apparatus identification information and apparatus operator identification information.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the dots ~~a dot~~ is obtained by modulating image information constituted by one pixel or a plurality of adjacent pixels.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~17~~ 13, wherein the additional information is represented by a plurality of ones of the line, which are repeated in the second direction.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein when the plurality of lines correspond to predetermined identification information, another dot different from an original dot is added to a specific line of the plurality of lines, thereby forming a division in the predetermined identification information.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the specific line comprises two specific lines of the plurality of lines corresponding to the predetermined identification information, thereby determining the division in the identification information and an arrangement direction of the identification information.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the additional information is superposed for a color most unnoticeable to a human eye in ~~element~~ colors representing an image.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined process is at least one of magnification, color conversion, MTF correction, and modulation.

Claims 23.-33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) An image processing method applied to an image processing apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a medium, comprising:

a processing step of performing a predetermined process on input image information; and

a superposing step of superposing predetermined additional information on the image information processing at said processing step,

wherein when said the image forming means forms an image in accordance with the image information on which the additional information is superposed at said superposing

step, said superposing step superposes the additional information so as to make it difficult for the human eye to identify the additional information, and

the additional information is represented by a relative positional relationship between a dot position of a line formed by equidistantly arranging dots in a first direction and a dot position of an adjacent line formed by equidistantly arranging dots in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.